

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 13, 2008

Secretary Michael Chertoff
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Chertoff,

We want to congratulate you on your recent announcement regarding the implementation of the Electronic System for Travel Authorization – which we understand will be operational by January 12, 2009. This is a significant step forward in providing greater security for all Americans and we are hopeful that this announcement will pave the way for additional countries to participate in the visa waiver program (VWP).

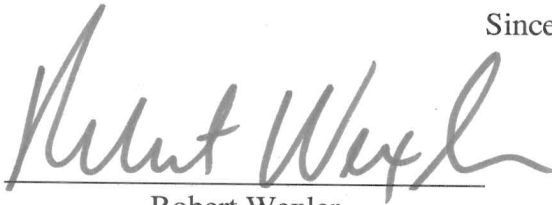
In that vein, following the recent hearing in the House Subcommittee on Europe regarding expansion of the visa waiver program (VWP), we are extremely interested in following up with you regarding Greece's progress towards membership in the program. Please know we strongly support our ally Greece's participation in the visa waiver program and we urge you to move their application forward as expeditiously as possible. We strongly believe that Greece, which has met the formal requirements for joining the visa waiver program, should be among the first group of nations to be added to the program.

At the hearing on May 14, Assistant Secretary Richard Barth indicated that Greece's progress had been stifled by a delay in the negotiations on the Memorandum of Understanding. We urge you to use every tool at your disposal to advance negotiations and make certain Greece's VWP application is a top priority for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

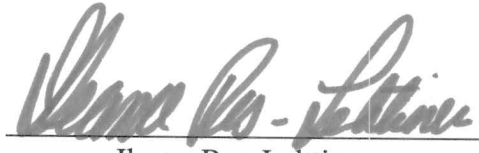
Secretary Chertoff, as proponents of VWP expansion and Greece's participation in the program, we look forward to hearing from you regarding the status of Greece's application as well as what steps are being taken by the Administration and DHS along with the Greek government to resolve outstanding issues related to the Memorandum of Understanding. It is extremely important given the strong bilateral relations between the United States and Greece that the Administration bring closure to this issue and move forward with Greece's participation on the VWP.

To that end, please know we look forward to working with you to further enhance the security measures in this important program and expand it to additional countries.

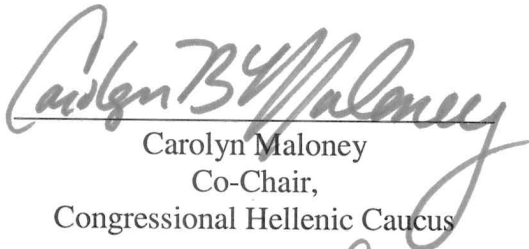
Sincerely,



Robert Wexler
Chairman,
Subcommittee on Europe



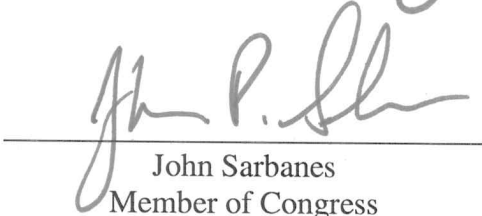
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Ranking Member
House Committee on Foreign Affairs



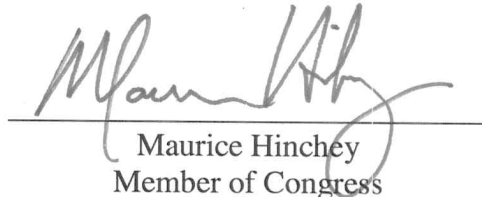
Carolyn Maloney
Co-Chair,
Congressional Hellenic Caucus



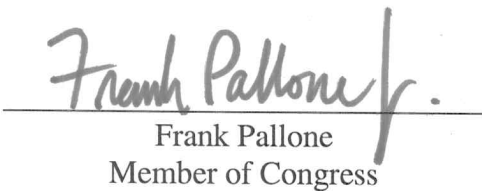
Gus Bilirakis
Co-Chair,
Congressional Hellenic Caucus



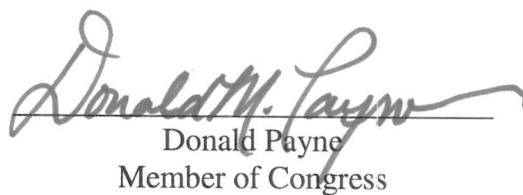
John Sarbanes
Member of Congress



Maurice Hinchey
Member of Congress



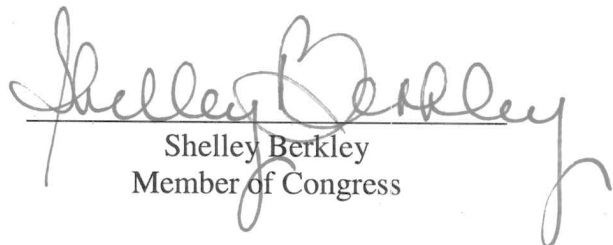
Frank Pallone
Member of Congress



Donald Payne
Member of Congress



Jesse L. Jackson Jr.
Member of Congress



Shelley Berkley
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Rubén Hinojosa
Member of Congress



Thaddeus McCotter
Member of Congress



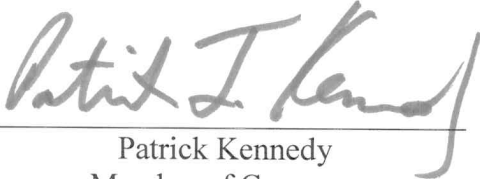
Gary Ackerman
Member of Congress



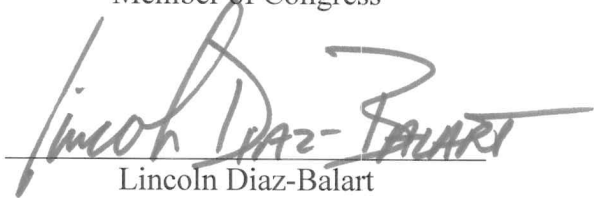
Sheila Jackson-Lee
Member of Congress



Scott Garrett
Member of Congress



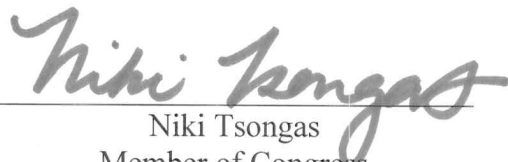
Patrick Kennedy
Member of Congress



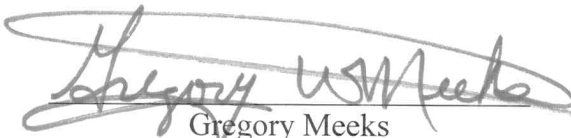
Lincoln Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress



Phil English
Member of Congress



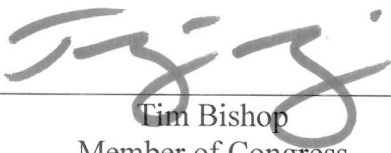
Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



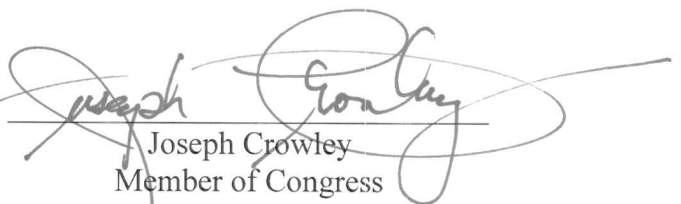
Gregory Meeks
Member of Congress



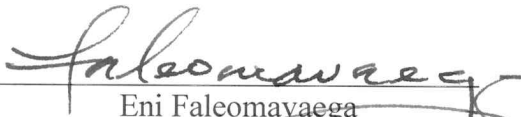
Albio Sires
Member of Congress



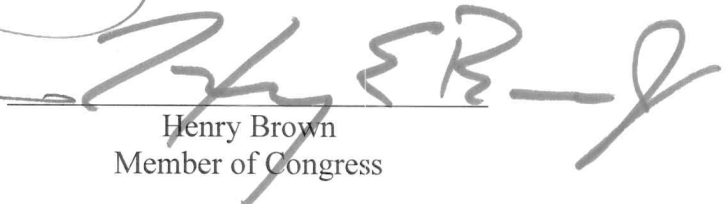
Tim Bishop
Member of Congress



Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress



Eni Faleomavaega
Member of Congress



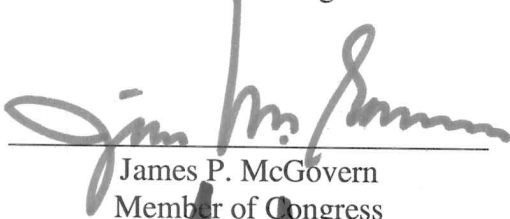
Henry Brown
Member of Congress



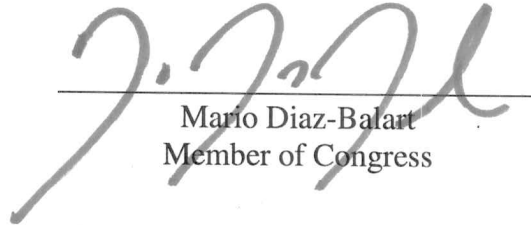
Russ Carnahan
Member of Congress




Rush Holt
Member of Congress



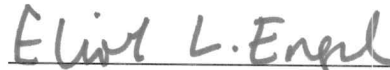
James P. McGovern
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Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



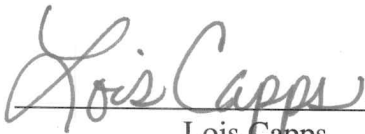
Eliot Engel
Member of Congress



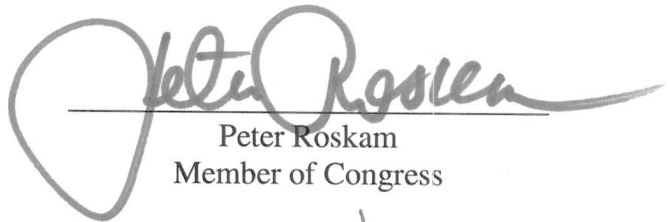
Jim Langevin
Member of Congress



Michael Capuano
Member of Congress



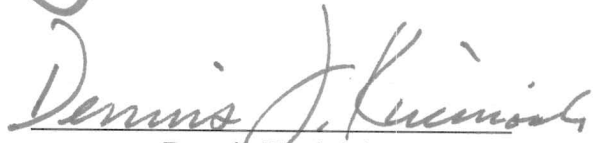
Lois Capps
Member of Congress



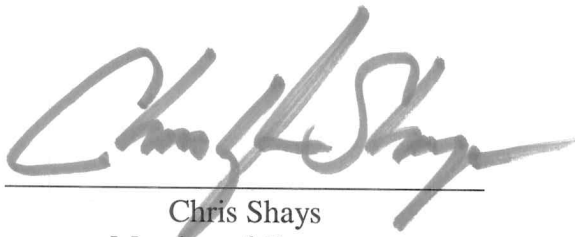
Peter Roskam
Member of Congress



Barney Frank
Member of Congress



Dennis Kucinich
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Chris Shays
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John Lewis
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Earl Blumenauer
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